

By: Zerwas, Oliverson, Parker

H.B. No. 2525

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 2525:

By: Hernandez

C.S.H.B. No. 2525

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the regulation of physician assistants and  
anesthesiologist assistants.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 204, Occupations Code, is  
amended by adding Section 204.060 to read as follows:

Sec. 204.060. ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANT ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE. (a) The anesthesiologist assistant advisory committee  
consists of seven members appointed by the presiding officer of the  
physician assistant board.

(b) The committee consists of:

(1) four anesthesiologist assistants; and

(2) three physician anesthesiologists.

(c) The committee members serve:

(1) at the will of the presiding officer of the  
physician assistant board; and

(2) without compensation or reimbursement for  
expenses incurred in the performance of duties as a committee  
member.

(d) The committee shall:

(1) meet at the call of the presiding officer of the  
physician assistant board; and

(2) provide recommendations to the physician  
assistant board on matters related to the regulation of

anesthesiologist assistants as requested by the presiding officer of the physician assistant board.

SECTION 2. The heading to Section 204.102, Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 204.102. POWERS AND DUTIES OF MEDICAL BOARD RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS AND ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS.

SECTION 3. Section 204.102(a), Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The medical board shall adopt rules consistent with this chapter to regulate:

(1) physician assistants;

(2) ~~and~~ physicians who supervise physician assistants;

(3) anesthesiologist assistants; and

(4) physician anesthesiologists who supervise anesthesiologist assistants.

SECTION 4. Section 204.151, Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 204.151. LICENSE REQUIRED; EXCEPTION. (a) A person may not practice as a physician assistant in this state unless the person holds a physician assistant license issued under this chapter.

(b) An anesthesiologist assistant is not required to obtain a license under this chapter and may practice as an anesthesiologist assistant under the delegated authority of a licensed physician.

SECTION 5. Section 204.152(a), Occupations Code, is amended

to read as follows:

(a) The physician assistant board shall issue a physician assistant or anesthesiologist assistant license to an applicant who:

(1) meets the eligibility requirements of Section 204.153 or 204.1535, as applicable;

(2) submits an application on a form prescribed by the board;

(3) pays the required application fee;

(4) certifies that the applicant is mentally and physically able to function safely as a physician assistant; and

(5) submits to the board any other information the board considers necessary to evaluate the applicant's qualifications.

SECTION 6. The heading to Section 204.153, Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 204.153. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LICENSE.

SECTION 7. Section 204.153(a), Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) To be eligible for a physician assistant license under this chapter, an applicant must:

(1) successfully complete an educational program for physician assistants or surgeon assistants accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant [~~Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation~~] or by that commission's [~~committee's~~] predecessor or successor

1 entities;

2 (2) pass the Physician Assistant National Certifying  
3 Examination administered by the National Commission on  
4 Certification of Physician Assistants or the commission's  
5 successor entity;

6 (3) hold a certificate issued by the National  
7 Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants or the  
8 commission's successor entity;

9 (4) be of good moral character;

10 (5) meet any other requirement established by  
11 physician assistant board rule; and

12 (6) pass a jurisprudence examination approved by the  
13 physician assistant board as provided by Subsection (a-1).

14 SECTION 8. Subchapter D, Chapter 204, Occupations Code, is  
15 amended by adding Section 204.1535 to read as follows:

16 Sec. 204.1535. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR  
17 ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANT LICENSE. To be eligible for an  
18 anesthesiologist assistant license under this chapter, an  
19 applicant must:

20 (1) successfully complete an educational program for  
21 anesthesiologist assistants accredited by the Commission on  
22 Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs or by that  
23 commission's predecessor or successor entities;

24 (2) pass the Certifying Examination for  
25 Anesthesiologist Assistants administered by the National  
26 Commission for Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants or the  
27 commission's successor entity;

1           (3) hold a certificate issued by the National  
2 Commission for Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants or the  
3 commission's successor entity;

4           (4) be of good moral character;

5           (5) meet any other requirement established by  
6 physician assistant board rule; and

7           (6) pass a jurisprudence examination approved by the  
8 physician assistant board that is comparable to the examination  
9 under Section 204.153(a-1).

10           SECTION 9. Section 204.201, Occupations Code, is amended to  
11 read as follows:

12           Sec. 204.201. NOTICE OF INTENT TO PRACTICE. (a) Before  
13 beginning practice, each person [~~physician assistant~~] licensed  
14 under this chapter shall submit on a form prescribed by the  
15 physician assistant board notice of the license holder's intent to  
16 practice. The notice must include:

17           (1) the name, business address, license number, and  
18 telephone number of the license holder [~~physician assistant~~]; and

19           (2) the name, business address, Texas license number,  
20 and telephone number of the license holder's [~~physician~~  
21 ~~assistant's~~] supervising physician or supervising physician  
22 anesthesiologist, as applicable.

23           (b) A license holder [~~physician assistant~~] shall notify the  
24 physician assistant board of any change in, or addition to, the  
25 person acting as a supervising physician or supervising physician  
26 anesthesiologist, as applicable, [~~for the physician assistant~~] not  
27 later than the 30th day after the date the change or addition

1 occurs.

2 SECTION 10. The heading to Section 204.202, Occupations  
3 Code, is amended to read as follows:

4 Sec. 204.202. SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT.

5 SECTION 11. Subchapter E, Chapter 204, Occupations Code, is  
6 amended by adding Section 204.2025 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 204.2025. SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR ANESTHESIOLOGIST  
8 ASSISTANT. (a) The practice of an anesthesiologist assistant  
9 includes providing medical services delegated by a supervising  
10 physician anesthesiologist that are within the education,  
11 training, and experience of the anesthesiologist assistant.

12 (b) Medical services provided by an anesthesiologist  
13 assistant may include:

14 (1) obtaining an appropriate and accurate  
15 pre-anesthetic health history;

16 (2) performing an appropriate physical examination  
17 and recording pertinent information in an organized and legible  
18 manner;

19 (3) performing diagnostic laboratory and related  
20 studies as appropriate, including drawing arterial and venous blood  
21 samples;

22 (4) performing the insertion of invasive monitoring  
23 modalities, including transesophageal echocardiography probes,  
24 arterial lines, pulmonary artery catheters, and central venous  
25 lines, as delegated by the supervising physician anesthesiologist;

26 (5) administering anesthetic agents and controlled  
27 substances, including administering induction agents, maintaining

1 and altering anesthesia levels, administering adjunctive  
2 treatments, and providing continuity of anesthetic care into and  
3 during the post-operative recovery period;

4 (6) establishing airway interventions and performing  
5 ventilation support;

6 (7) applying, performing, and interpreting advanced  
7 monitoring techniques;

8 (8) using advanced life support techniques, including  
9 high frequency ventilation and intra-arterial cardiovascular  
10 assist devices;

11 (9) monitoring patients after the administration of  
12 anesthesia by recording patient progress notes, compiling and  
13 recording case summaries, and transcribing standing and specific  
14 orders;

15 (10) evaluating and treating life-threatening  
16 situations, including performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation, on  
17 the basis of established protocols, including basic life support,  
18 advanced cardiac life support, and pediatric advanced life support  
19 protocols; and

20 (11) performing duties in intensive care units, pain  
21 clinics, and other settings, as delegated by the supervising  
22 physician anesthesiologist.

23 SECTION 12. Section 204.204, Occupations Code, is amended  
24 by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

25 (d) An anesthesiologist assistant must be supervised by a  
26 supervising physician anesthesiologist in the same manner that a  
27 physician assistant is supervised by a supervising physician under

1 Subsections (a), (b), and (c), except that during the provision of  
2 any anesthesia service by an anesthesiologist assistant, the  
3 supervising physician anesthesiologist shall maintain a physical  
4 proximity that enables the supervising physician anesthesiologist  
5 to be immediately available if needed.

6         SECTION 13. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
7 of this Act, the presiding officer of the Texas Physician Assistant  
8 Board shall appoint seven members to the anesthesiologist assistant  
9 advisory committee in accordance with Section 204.060, Occupations  
10 Code, as added by this Act.

11         SECTION 14. (a) Sections 204.152 and 204.153, Occupations  
12 Code, as amended by this Act, and Section 204.1535, Occupations  
13 Code, as added by this Act, apply only to an application for a  
14 license submitted to the Texas Physician Assistant Board on or  
15 after the effective date of this Act. An application submitted  
16 before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in  
17 effect on the date the application was submitted, and the former law  
18 is continued in effect for that purpose.

19         (b) As soon as practicable after the effective date of this  
20 Act, the Texas Physician Assistant Board or Texas Medical Board, as  
21 appropriate, shall adopt rules necessary to implement the changes  
22 in law made by this Act to Chapter 204, Occupations Code.

23         SECTION 15. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.